NORHAM & ISLANDSHIRES
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

UPON THE

Health and Sanitary Condition

OF THE

Norham and Islandshires

Rural District

FOR THE

Year ended 31st December, 1937.

PRINTED BY
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BERWICK

Norham and Islandshires Rural District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT

UPON THE

HEALTH AND SANITARY CONDITION

OF THE

NORHAM AND ISLANDSHIRES RURAL DISTRICT

For the Year ended 31st December, 1937.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Norham and Islandshires Rural District Council.

MISS GREET AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit the Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1937.

General Statistics.

Area—The area of the District is 47,011 acres.
Registrar General's estimate of resident population—4,596.
Number of inhabited houses according to Rate Books—1450.
Rateable Value—£17,528.
Sum represented by a Penny Rate—£82.

Social Conditions.

Agriculture is the principal industry, and the tendency is still for fewer labourers to be employed on the land.

The salmon fishers throughout the area had a very prosperous year. The colliery at Scremerston is prospering, and there has been very little unemployment there.

Holy Island, Norham and Horncliffe enjoy a certain popularity as holiday resorts and many of the residents depend on the summer visitors for a living.

Inspections under the Housing Acts have been continued in the district, and much progress has been made. This is dealt with in the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

Extracts from Vital Statistics.

	Total	M	F	
Live births—Legitimate	53	26	27	Birth rate per 1000 population—12.61
Illegitimate	5	3	2	
Still births ...	1	—	1	Rate per 1000 total births—17.24
Deaths ...	62	29	33	Rate per 1000 population—13.47

Deaths from puerperal causes—		Deaths	Rate per 1000 births
Puerperal sepsis	...	0	0
Other puerperal causes	...	0	0
Total ...	...	0	0

Death rate of infants under 1 year—

All infants, per 1000 live births—68.96

Legitimate Infants, do. —75.47

Illegitimate Infants, per 1000 illegitimate live births—0

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)—6

,, Measles—0

,, Whooping Cough—0

,, Diarrhœa (under 2 years)—0

The live births show a decrease of 13, and the deaths a decrease of 2, on 1936.

General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

Part time Medical Officer of Health—

Herbert F. Park, M.B., CH.B., Norham.

Part time Sanitary Inspector—J. Romans Lake.

Vaccination Officers—

Norhamshire—H. F. Park, M.B., C.H.B., Norham-on-Tweed.

Islandshire—John Elliott, L.R.C.S.E., Lowick, Beal.

Laboratory Facilities—The County Laboratories at Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Ambulance Facilities.—By arrangement with the Town Council of Berwick an ambulance can be provided for all infectious and accident cases in the area. There are also private ambulances on hire.

Nursing in the Home.—Nurses employed by the County Nursing Association continue to render efficient and adequate service.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.—None in the area.

Hospitals (Public and Voluntary).—No changes in the hospital services, within or without the area have been made, and the hospital provision for the area continues to be adequate. There has been *no* occasion to open the smallpox hospital at Oxford, Scremerston, during the year.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water.—There has been no evidence of any form of contamination, but the water question is quite acute in many parts of the district. The present supply at Norham is definitely inadequate. At Horncliffe where all residents depend on well water—not of the best quality—this also applies. The recent new source of supply at Thornton has proved excellent and abundant, and a scheme is at present before the Ministry of Health to enable us to pipe this supply to Norham and Horncliffe.

A Bacteriological test has been made of this supply, and is given in the Sanitary Inspector's report. The difficulty is to get a suitable project at a cost which the district can face.

The Council have for some time had under consideration the water supply and drainage system of Holy Island.

It has been agreed to have an engineer's report upon these questions with a view to their improvement and modernisation.

Drainage and Sewage. — Improvement in this matter is urgently needed in Norham. A scheme prepared by the Surveyor is at present being considered by the Ministry of Health. Dry closets are still in use in many of the houses, and water carried from the public pant. Here again the question of cost is preventing improvement being satisfactorily carried out. In some cases flush closets are fitted and waiting opportunity to be connected up.

Public Cleansing.—A scavenging system exists in Norham village. The septic tanks at Horncliffe and Scremerston have been cleaned during the year and found to be working satisfactorily.

Schools, Housing, and Closet Accommodation—These are dealt with in the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Slaughterhouses.—There are only 2 in the area, both at Norham. These have been visited and found satisfactory.

Prevalence of Infectious Diseases.

There have been no serious outbreaks of infectious disease. A number of cases of Scarlet Fever occurred in Holy Island, and owing to the isolated position and lack of any medical attention on the Island, most of these were taken to the hospital.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year :

Disease.	*Total Cases notified.*	*Cases admitted to Hospital.*	*Total Deaths*
Scarlet Fever ...	14	12	...
Pneumonia ...	1	0	...
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	1	...
Erysipelas ...	1	...	...

Prevention of Blindness.—There has been no action taken under this heading, as the scheme provided by the County Council is very comprehensive.

Tuberculosis.

Age Periods.	NEW CASES. Pulmon. M	NEW CASES. Pulmon. F	NEW CASES. Non-Pulmon. M	NEW CASES. Non-Pulmon. F	DEATHS. Pulmon. M	DEATHS. Pulmon. F	DEATHS. Non-Pulmon. M	DEATHS. Non-Pulmon. F
0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
25	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
35	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
45	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
55	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
65 and upwards	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

No non-notified tuberculosis deaths occurred in the district.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

Herbert. Park.
M.O.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR, for the Year 1937.

Miss Greet and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1937.

Visits of inspection have been made to various parts of the district during the year.

It has not been found necessary to serve any statutory notices. Informal notices have been issued regarding various insanitary matters. Verbal instructions have been given to responsible persons, and these notices and instructions have been well attended to.

Conditions of Dwellinghouses.—The defects which exist in the old type of dwellinghouse include dampness, insufficient light, want of ventilation, and, in some cases, dilapidations. There is also an absence of proper places for the storage of food, and an absence of scullery accomodation.

The benefits of the Housing (Rural Workers) Acts, 1926 and 1931, have been taken advantage of, but there are still cottages on several farms occupied by agricultural workers, the owners of which should carry out the improvements necessary under these beneficial Acts. During the year Grants have been made in respect of eight houses at Norham, Scremerston, and Camphouses.

The Council have been actively engaged in dealing with Slum Clearance Areas under the Housing Act, 1936. Clearance Orders have been made in respect of 21 houses at Cornhill, 5 at New Harperidge, and 8 at Donaldson's Lodge. Clearance Orders have been confirmed in respect of 25 houses at Norham and 12 at Horncliffe.

The Council have accepted tenders for the erection of the following houses:—

Scremerston—	12 Blocks 2 Bedroomed	...	24	
	3 ,, 2 & 3 ,,	...	12	
	1 ,, 3 & 4 ,,	...	4	
			—	40
East Ord—	3 Blocks 2 Bedroomed	...	6	
	1 ,, 2 & 3 ,,	...	4	
			—	10
Horncliffe—	1 Block 1 Bedroomed	...	2	
	4 ,, 2 ,,	...	8	
	2 ,, 3 ,,	...	4	
			—	14
Norham—	11 Blocks 2 Bedroomed	...	22	
	2 ,, 3 ,,	...	4	
	1 ,, 3 & 4 ,,	...	4	
			—	30
				— 94

Plans.—Plans for the erection of new houses and other buildings, and for the improvement of property, have been submitted to and passed by the Council. These include the following :—

New Buildings.—Telephone Kiosk at Holy Island, Portable Kiosk at Haggerston, Shed at Horncliffe, Bungalow at Fenwick, Garage at Horncliffe, Sub Post Office at Shoresdean, Garage at Norham, Pump House at Grindon. *Improvements to Property.*—Borewell Farm, House at Norham, Crown and Anchor—Holy Island, Salmon Inn—East Ord, House at Norham, House at Norham, Nos. 4, 6 and 7 Haggerston Cottages, House at Norham, Oxford Farm House, Orkney House—Norham.

Water supplise.—A scheme has been prepared for submission to the Ministry of Health which provides a gravitation supply to the villages of Norham and Horncliffe. This supply will be from a reservoir situated on ground the Council have acquired at Shoreswood Red House. The water mains will be 3in. and 4in. dia. The source of supply is from Thornton Spring,which already supplies the Council's new houses at Shoresdean from an elevated tank. Reports, plans of proposed reservoir, hydraulic sections to Norham and Horncliffe Villages, specification, schedule of quantities, calculations for design, etc., and all the necessary forms in connection therewith, have been furnished.

The following is the result of a bacteriological examination of a sample of water taken from Thornton Spring on 6th October, 1937—

Coli—aerogenes test, " Presumptive coli."

Total number of B. coli per 100 ml.—0

Total colonies developing on Agar at 37 C. (48 hrs. incubation) per ml.—19 approximately.

Total colonies developing on Agar at 20.22 C. (3 days incubation) per ml.—50 approximately.

Streptococci test—Negative.

This is a good sample of water and suitable for drinking purposes.

A 4in. water main has been laid from the water tower at the Old Colliery to the Council's Housing Sites at Scremerston.

Sewerage.—In Norham village a new 6in. sewer has been laid to drain the properties on the north and south sides of the village street. These replace the old open run channels for drainage purposes.

A scheme has been prepared for presentation to the Ministry of Health for dealing with the sewage of Norham village. This includes report, plans, profiles, specification and schedules, and estimates of the cost. It is proposed to treat the sewage by settling tanks, septic tanks, and filters.

The septic tanks at Scremerston and Horncliffe have been cleaned out. These are working satisfactorily.

Rivers and Streams.—There are no public works in the area, and consequently no river pollution from these sources.

Schools.—The Hampshire Privy System is prevalent in nearly all schools in the area. Water supplies are laid on where gravitation supplies are available, with the exception of one. Where there is no gravitation supply the water is carried from a pump or spring forming the supply for the other users.

Disinfection.—All premises where infectious disease occurred have been thoroughly disinfected, also all schools in the affected areas.

Dairies and Cowsheds.—There are 32 registered cowkeepers in the district, and 229 cows kept. During the year dairies and cowsheds have been inspected and instructions given to ensure cleanliness by flushing and sweeping channels, clearing away manure, and the brushing down and limewashing of walls.

Factories and Workshops.— These number 34, and have all been well kept.

Slaughterhouses.—There are two slaughterhouses in Norham, one registered and one unregistered. These have been visited and found to be well kept. The humane killer is in use in both.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

East Ord,
Berwick-upon-Tweed,
May, 1938.

Sanitary Inspector.

INSPECTION of FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, & WORKPLACES

	Inspected.	Defects found
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries)	...	...
Workplaces (other than Outworkers' premises)	68	0
	68	0

SUMMARY OF WORK EFFECTED.

	After Letter or Interview	*After Informal Notice*	*After Statutory Notice*	*Total*
Sanitary Conveniences—				
Privies abolished ...	24	...	...	24
,, repaired ...	4	...	...	4
Privy ashpits abolished ...	8	...	...	8
,, roofed or repaired	...	...	...	...
Pail-closets abolished ...	...	...	...	...
Water-closets provided ...	26	...	...	26
,, repaired ...	2	...	...	2
Sanitary bins provided ...	...	...	...	...
,, renewed ...	...	...	...	...
Drainage—				
New drains constructed ...	13	...	...	13
Drains repaired or reconstructed	4	...	...	4
Additional gullies provided	6	...	...	6
Old gullies replaced ...	...	...	...	...
Scullery sinks provided ...	26	...	...	26
,, waste pipes repaired	2	...	...	2
,, ,, ,, trapped	1	...	...	1
Yards repaired or reconstructed	...	...	...	...
Water Supply—				

Sources closed or discontinued— No. of houses affected—

New service provided—1 No. of houses affected—40

FOOD INSPECTION.

Surrendered.	*Seized.*	*Legal proceedings, and result*
Nil.	Nil.	Nil.

MILK AND DAIRIES ORDER, 1926.

Number of Cowkeepers (registered) in district	32
Approximate number of cows kept ...	229

HOUSING (CONSOLIDATED) REGULATIONS, 1925.

Houses erected during the year—

	With State Assistance.	Unaided.	Total.
(a) By Local Authority	60	...	60
(b) By other bodies or persons	...	...	...

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1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 81

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 249

(2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 ... ...

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...

(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 62

(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be, in all respects, reasonably fit for human habitation 19

2. Remedy of defects during year without service of formal notices—

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or its officers ... ...

3. Action under statutory powers during the year—

(a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs... ... ...

(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices—

(a) By owners ... ...

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... ...

(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices—

(a) By owners ... ...

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...

(c) Proceedings under secs. 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... ...

(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... ...

(d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936—

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were made ... ...

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... ...

4. No. of houses permanently discontinued as dwellings and not included above ... ...

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

Name of District—Norham and Islandshires Rural District.

Population—4596

Name of Inspector—J. Romans Lake, East Ord, Berwick-on-Tweed.

	Housing					Water Supply		Drainage		Sanitary Conveniences														
	Structural Defects	Defective Food Store	Dampness	Overcrowding	Nuisances	Insufficient	Unsatisfactory	Insufficient	Defective	Insufficient	Defective	Shops, Food Stores, etc.	Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops	Slaughter Houses	Tents, Vans, etc.	Offensive Trades	Workshops & Workplaces	Keeping of Animals	Insanitary Ashpits and Receptacles	Ashpits improperly used	Offensive Accumulations	Smoke Nuisances	Petrol Stores	TOTALS
No. of Inspections during year	249	26	129	...	...	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	60	6	3	..	31	...	12	...	...	.	18	...
No. of defects or contraventions of byelaws	14	26	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	.	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Number outstanding from prev. year	2	...	129	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	..	...	...	...	..	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...
Total ...	16	26	129	...	...	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	2	6	3	...	34	...	12	...	...	..	18	..
Number remedied after Letter or interview	16	...	...	..	...	...	...	..	...	..	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	..	...	..
No. of Informal Notices served ...	...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..
Defects remedied thereafter	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	.	...	...	...	..	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	.
No. of Statutory Notices served ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	.	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...
Defects remedied thereafter	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...
In progress or being dealt with ...	..	...	...	..	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	..	...	.	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...
Legal Proceedings	..	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...